

money in their pocket. It is saved or it is spent. Either is good for the economy. Saving the money from a tax cut would provide more resources, more capital for creating new jobs and new businesses. Spending the tax relief not only provides for the needs of hard-working Americans, but the demands for products will create new jobs and sustain the jobs we have.

Mr. Speaker, tax relief can be as good, if not better, than a pay raise, and the Republican plan will not only restore the integrity of Social Security, rebuild our national defense, strengthen education, but it will also provide much-needed tax relief for hard-working Americans.

#### SAVE OUR AMERICAN TREASURES: MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is a good day. I am glad the debate is on tax cuts versus Social Security and Medicare and paying down our national debt. Medicare and Social Security are two of the greatest, most effective programs our country has ever created. They provide the two fundamental keys to retirement security: medical and financial security.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has the responsibility to every American, past, present and future, to save these national treasures.

The good news is that we have the opportunity to ensure the long-term stability of these programs. The bad news will only come if people try to politicize the programs or, worse yet, dismantle them. We can strengthen Social Security, Medicare and pay down the debt. They are popular with the American people for the simple reason that they work.

Mr. Speaker, let us work together to strengthen Medicare and Social Security. Social Security and Medicare are needed for the current seniors, the baby boomers, and our children and our grandchildren.

#### NO EXIT STRATEGY

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about our administration's foreign policy and the men and women in our Nation's military service. I have three words to describe the administration's strategy for deployment of U.S. troops to police Kosovo, and they are: No exit strategy.

Can we honestly ask the men and women of our Armed Services to stand up and once again become the world's police of foreign policy decisions?

Should we not justify to the American people the need for intervention based on some realistic, identified and threatened vital national interest?

I should think so.

However, when a defective strategy results in a multi-year deployment, billions of dollars in cost to the American taxpayer and the risk in lives of every American soldier over there, it is time for us to say no. It is time that our foreign policy marches to a new cadence, one that protects our vital national interests and the lives of our hard-working, dedicated men and women in our nation's military.

On behalf of our Nation's interests and the lives of our service men and women, I yield back this dangerous foreign policy and the balance of my time.

#### EDUCATION MUST BE OUR NUMBER 1 PRIORITY

(Ms. WOOLSEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ran for Congress, and I am here today because I believe that our children's education must be the number one priority in our country. Education is another of President Clinton's major budget priorities because he also agrees that we must prepare all of our children for the high-skill, high-wage jobs that will insure America's leadership in the world marketplace and at the same time prevent dependency on welfare here at home.

Public education is the backbone of our country. It is why we are a great Nation. Public education is available to all.

This Congress we have an opportunity that comes along once every 5 years, and that opportunity is to review and update the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. ESEA is best known for Title I, the program that educates the disadvantaged. Title I is important because it helps disadvantaged children achieve along with their more fortunate peers.

Title I must be supported. Tax relief for the well off must wait.

#### UNITED STATES VULNERABLE TO BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACKS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, it is the official policy of the United States to remain vulnerable to a ballistic missile attack. That might be surprising to many, but it is true, even though it flies in the face of common sense. Iraq, North Korea, Iran are all embarked on nuclear weapons programs that would enable them to reach the United States with a ballistic missile, and China already has that ability.

Mr. Speaker, the only thing we have to protect us is a relic of the Cold War, an ABM treaty with a country that no longer even exists.

Do my colleagues think the leaders of Iraq and North Korea and Iran and Communist China are impressed with our ABM treaty? I do not think so.

Mr. Speaker, the administration's timid, weak and uncertain steps to begin building a national defense system are not enough. They are too little, and I am afraid they are going to be too late.

I urge the Congress to take the lead on this vital issue, Mr. Speaker, and as my liberal colleagues so often love to say:

Let us do it for the children.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LEON HIGGINBOTHAM

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to invite my colleagues of the House of Representatives to join me this evening for a special order to pay tribute to a wonderful and outstanding American, a jurist of great renown, the late Judge Leon Higginbotham. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor in 1995 and the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award, and in 1994 South African President Nelson Mandela asked Higginbotham to be an international mediator. I would hope that we would spend our evening, this evening, paying tribute to this great American.

#### I STAND HERE FOR THE CHILDREN

Mr. Speaker, let me also say that I stand here for the children. Be it liberal or conservative or moderate, I do not know who could not stand for the children.

I believe we should, if my colleagues will, pay off the debt and as well save Social Security and Medicare. At the same time, we can give targeted child tax credits to businesses that provide child care services, and we can also provide targeted tax credits to stay-at-home parents. We can do all of this at once by doing the right thing and standing for our children.

#### AIR FORCE JUNIOR ROTC PROGRAM AT ROME HIGH

(Mr. BARR of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it seems as if every day we are reading or hearing a new story about the difficulty our military forces are having recruiting and retaining top-notch personnel. Our military is being stretched thinner and thinner by missions of